



TRAVEL PLANNING

By

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THE PLANNING PROCESS

Algorithm/What are you going to do

Sources of Information

Past Experience

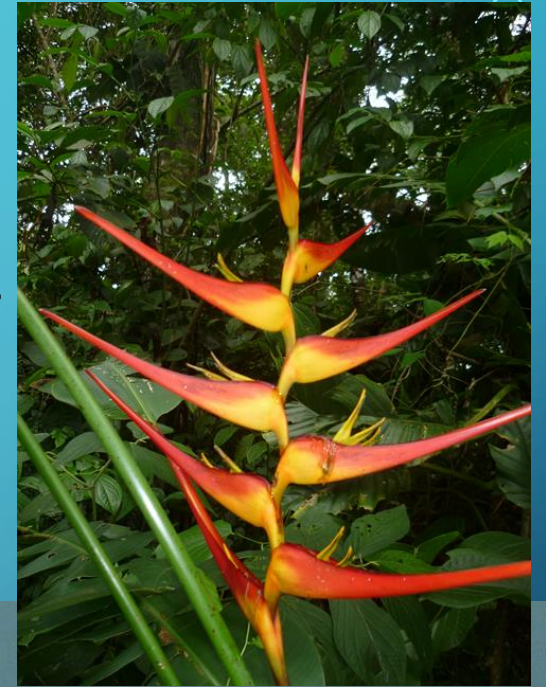
Algorithm: A step by step
solution in a finite amount of time.

BASIC PLANNING CHOICES

1. Use a travel agent
 - * Skilled and knowledgeable.
 - * Have resources you don't have.
 - * Optional planning effort by you.
 - * Work off commission.
2. Use a travel company
 - * Can have unique travel packages.
 - * Have similar skills as travel agent.
 - Overseas Adventure Travel (OAT) & Grand Circle.

3. Plan it yourself.

- * No limit but your imagination.
- * Can combine with options 1 & 2.



I. LOCATIONS/DESTINATIONS

Weather/Climate

Political & Cultural Aspects

Food

Religious Restrictions

Accessibility

II. DOCUMENTATION

1. Passport
2. Visa
3. Visa Waivers
4. TSA/Global Entry
5. Health/Immunizations
6. Master Plan
7. Backing Up Your Trip Data

THE DETAILS

Passport

- Issued for 10 years.
- Applications available at local post office.
- Issuing agency is Department of State.
- Need recent picture.

VISA

- Is a permit to enter a country.
- Each country sets their own parameters as to what nationalities will be permitted access, for how long and for what reason at what cost.
- May take weeks to obtain & passport is not in your hands.

VISA WAIVER

- Required to enter European countries starting in 2021.
- European Travel Information and Authorization System (ETIAS) with estimated \$8 Fee.
- Involves 34 countries.

IDENTIFICATION DETAILS

- **TSA PreCheck** allows you to speed through security when you're traveling in the US. Fill out form.

Global Entry allows you to speed through customs + TSA PreCheck included. Fill out form + Interview.

III. TRANSPORTATION

Long Distance

- Air - 1 Yr. Advance Planning.
- Rail - 90 to 120 days in Advance for most countries.
- Ship - 2 Yr. Advanced Planning.

FOREIGN COUNTRY ENTERING STEPS (IN THIS ORDER)

1. Passport Control – This identifies you
2. Visa Protocol – Grants Admittance to a Country
3. Customs Declaration – Declaration of Possessions

Note: Customs protocols include banning all kinds of fruits, vegetables, plants, seeds, meats, and who knows what – read the custom statement and eat it or toss it.

USA & EU ENTERING STEPS

- For USA or European Union (many countries) entry.
- First entry point (includes transfers) requires:
 - Claim baggage.
 - Complete process as if entering the country.
 - Go back through security clearance for departure.
 - **Note adds time required for layover.**

AND YOUR GOING WHERE?

- Airports are identified with Letter Codes.
- ICAO codes have been assigned to each country.
- USA code is the letter K. All flight plans use this now.
- Technically LAX is now KLAX.

BAGGAGE & WHO'S IN CHARGE

You Are

- Baggage Handling is a tricky subject.
- Airlines have various agreements that can change even from airport to airport.
- There is no one size fits all.
- Travel Agents can be of great value

BAGGAGE KNOW HOW

- **IMPORTANT:** Make sure that you verify with the ticketing agent at your starting airport what is your **FINAL** destination, not your connecting one.



AIRLINES & BAGGAGE AGREEMENTS

- A Passenger Name Record (**PNR**) is a record in the database of a computer reservation system (CRS).
- The itinerary for a passenger, (& presumably your baggage) is included.
- The **PNR** in turn is identified in the particular database by a record locator pointer.

BAGGAGE TRANSFERS

- If correct ticketing is in place, do not exit secure airport terminal(s) until at final destination.
- Your bags should follow you to destination.

Exception If you are entering the USA or European Union on an international flight.

BAGGAGE HANDLING PECKING ORDER

Chance of Success

Best

1. Nonstop flight.
2. Transfer(s) with same airline.
3. Transfer(s) with alliance airline.
4. Transfer(s) with big non alliance airline.
5. Transfer(s) with small regional airline.

Least

Local Transportation

- Metro/Light Rail = Generally 1st choice.
- Shuttle Bus = Also a good choice.
- Municipal Bus = **AVOID** unless you really know where your going &/or fluent in local language.
- Taxis = Often four options in South America.
- Jitneys/Odd Assortment



AIRPORT TO HOTEL TRANSPORTATION

- **Best**

- Reserved private vehicle with driver
- Arranged Taxi driver (via text or web site)
- Train or Metro (light train/subway)
- Shuttle bus (n/s airport to central city location)
- Official Taxi Company
- Want to be Taxi Driver (outside terminal)
- Public bus

- **Worst**

OPTIMAL COST AIRPORT TO HOTEL

- 1. Train or Metro to City Center
 - Often to central train station (always great connections).
 - Second best is to widely known location.
- 2. Take Connecting Metro/Subway close to hotel.
- 3. Take Taxi to hotel.

SOUTH AMERICAN TAXI

At the Airport

- Generally lacks sophistication.
- Legal taxi drivers allowed inside the terminal.
- Dispatcher assigns drivers who wait in line.
 - Drivers are better dressed, sometimes in uniform.
 - Drive a vehicle with company ID visible.
- **Driver's from legal companies can be reserved in advance.**

THE AIRLINE INDUSTRY

Consortiums



- Each have adopted unique rates and charges, models and methodologies.
- End Result – It helps the airlines bottom line.

AIRLINE ALLIANCE

- Airlines in an Alliance cooperate to their collective advantage
 - Offer transferrable frequent flyer miles.
 - Code Share = Multiple airlines in Alliance sell tickets on same flight.
 - Code share does not require same pricing.
 - Can share marketing/promotional programs.

IV. ACCOMMODATIONS

- Specify payment in \$ to avoid transaction fee.
 - Bring your own wash cloth.
 - Always consider location.
 - Hotel may have their preferred taxi driver.
- Generally this is a safe bet.



V. ATTRACTIONS

1. Why are you there?
2. Level of Physical Activity.
3. Age Restrictions.
 - Some limitations at age 75

VI. CONVERSATION

- English Is King
- Significant English spoken in:
 - Well educated countries, better in big cities, less in rural areas.
- Small countries can surprise you with English proficiency.

CONVERSATION (CONT.)

Spanish is a big help with other Romance Languages.

- Hints to find English speakers:

- * People in late teens & early twenties.

- * People who deal with the public:

- Hotel front desk, Proximity to a University, Bar tenders, Bank employees, Restaurant managers

LANGUAGE ASSIMILATION

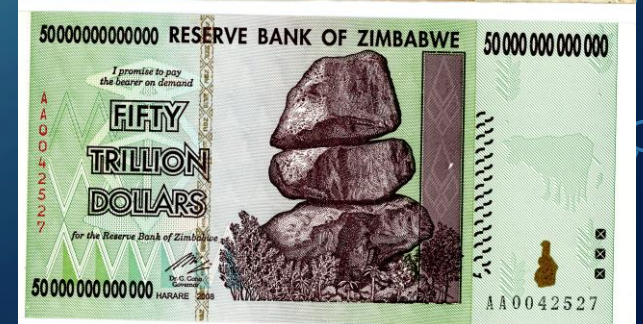
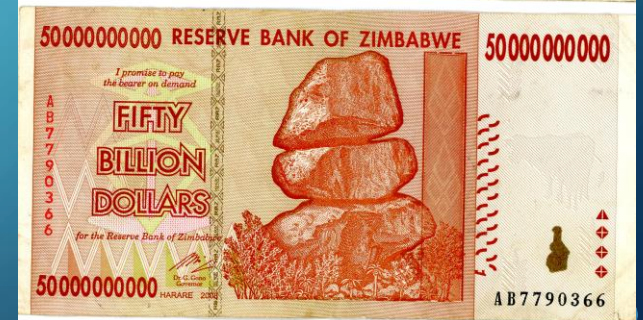
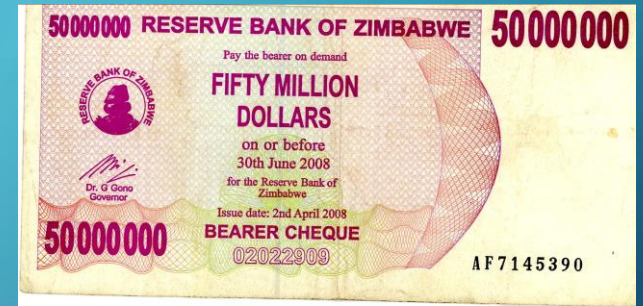
- For Spanish, Learn the 5 vowel sounds.
- Practice before you leave.
- This assists in understanding words spoken to you.
- Language Translators are on the web .

VII. TRANSACTIONS

- Credit Card
 - Use No Cost Foreign Exchange version
- Cash:
 - Exchange prior to departure.
 - Use biggest banks in biggest cities at teller window.
 - Use locations with restricted access and/or guarded.

TRANSACTIONS (CONT.)

- ATM at arrival airport O.K. but not great.
- Avoid less prominent locations.
- Bring small U.S. bills for tips. More if country has high inflation rate.
- Paypal -- Can arrange payment in advance where currency limits are imposed.



VIII. THE UNEXPECTED

- A change of Plans
- Lost Baggage
- Lost ID/Wallet/Purse
- **YOU** getting Lost



RETRIEVE DATA FROM

- Have an e-mail address just for travel.
 - Email documentation to yourself and travel companion.
- Establish cloud storage and save information to it.
 - Scan and save image of a blank check.

LOST IN SPACE & WHAT TO DO

- Prevention – Always take hotel business card(s) when you leave the hotel.
- Cell phone
 - Use Google maps and/or Use Rome2Rio.com
 - Use Lyft or Uber (add app before you leave)
 - Take picture of your master plan – it has hotel address on it.
- Take a compass with you. Always navigate by highest land or building structure to next one.

LOST IN SPACE (CONT.)

- Take a flashlight with you. Street signs are often on side of buildings. Difficult to read at night.

Ask for a taxi:

- Any hotel, restaurant, bar, even a selected store.

You have hotel business card – right?

LOST IN SPACE (CONT.)

- Ask a stranger for directions (can sometimes be worse off).
- Best to ask directions to closest big statue/monument, major building (church), metro station or intersection.

By product: easier to flag down taxi

- End of Presentation